

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S: L MACFARLANE

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O 072337Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221436

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 6110

1. AMOCO TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT SEPT 7 TO REPORT ADDITIONAL INSTANCES OF HARASSMENT BY ISRAELI GUNBOATS OF ITS OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ. THESE INCIDENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT 5, AMOCO TUG ENTERED SITE 304.1 TO ASCERTAIN DAMAGE CAUSED DAY BEFORE BY ISRAELI GUNBOAT TO ITS BUOYS. AS SOON AS TUG MOVED INTO 304.1 AREA, ISRAELI GUNBOAT WHICH STANDING BY HEADED TO INTERCEPT IT. AMOCO TUG ON SEEING ISRAELI GUNBOAT APPROACHING REVERSED COURSE AND DEPARTED SITE 304.1 TO WEST WITHOUT EXCHANGING ANY COMMENTS WITH ISRAELIS. (THIS REPORT PRESUMABLY PARALLELS THAT IN CAIRO 11973.)

3. ON MONDAY, SEPT 6, AT 6:15 A.M. AT RAMADAN 4 LOCATION, STANDBY TUG WAS FORCED TO LEAVE DRILLING PLATFORM AND MOVE FURTHER WEST BY ISRAELI GUNBOAT. BOSWELL OF AMOCO SAID WORKING PLATFORMS SUCH AS RAMADAN 4 BY ROUTINE HAVE TUG CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDING BY TO REMOVE PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY, OBTAIN SUPPLIES

AS NEEDED FROM BASE OR OTHER NEARBY PLATFORMS, AND TO MEET
WHATEVER OTHER NEED MAY ARISE. FYI: RAMADAN FIELD
STRADDLES MEDIAN LINE AND PLATFORMS IN THIS FIELD HAVE BEEN

IN OPERATION SINCE 1974. THESE RIGS HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY
BEEN HARASSED BY ISRAELIS. END FYI. WHEN TUG LEFT
RAMADAN 4 ON ORDERS OF ISRAELI GUNBOAT, IT LEFT CREW WORK-
ING BUT NOW EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED ON PLATFORM.

4. AMOCO IN CHICAGO WAS UNAWARE INCIDENT REPORTED TEL AVIV
REFTEL, BUT BOSWELL COMMENTED THIS INCIDENT SEEMED TO FIT
PATTERN OF INCIDENTS HE WISHED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION.
THESE INCIDENTS ARE THE FIRST TIME THAT ISRAELIS HAVE
HARASSED AMOCO'S OPERATING FIELDS. IF HARASSMENT CON-
TINUES IT WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR PRODUCTION.
AS A RESULT, AMOCO IS CONSIDERING ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE
ON THESE INCIDENTS.

5. WILL APPRECIATE EMBASSY TEL AVIV SEEKING
TO ASCERTAIN ACCURATENESS OF THESE REPORTS OF FURTHER
ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ.
PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

6. FOR AMBASSADOR TOON: IF REPORT OF PATTERN OF HARASS-
MENT OUTLINED ABOVE IS CONFIRMED, YOU SHOULD MAKE REFER-
ENCE TO IT IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH RABIN.

ROBINSON

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